

What should be the priorities for Puget Sound waters?

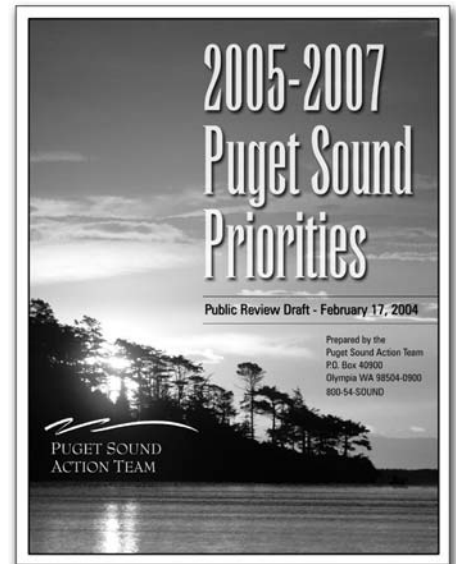
We want your comments to help guide the 2005-2007 Puget Sound Priorities

The Puget Sound Action Team (Action Team) wants your ideas and input to help direct the Puget Sound priorities for the 2005-2007 biennium, which begins July 2005 and ends June 2007. Please send us your comments on the *2005-2007 Puget Sound Priorities* by **March 18, 2004**.

The Action Team is the state's partnership that defines, coordinates and puts into action the state's environmental protection and restoration agenda for Puget Sound. It is made up of state agencies and federal, tribal and local government representatives. The Action Team and its advisors on the Puget Sound Council develop a two-year work plan and budget to focus their work in Puget Sound. The Action Team has identified the following as the most important priorities for our work together to protect and restore Puget Sound:

- Clean up contaminated sites and sediments.
- Reduce continuing toxic contamination and prevent future contamination.
- Reduce the harmful impacts from stormwater runoff.
- Prevent contamination from sewage systems, on-site septs and other nonpoint sources, in particular as they affect shellfish.
- Protect shorelines and other critical areas that provide important ecological functions.
- Restore degraded or harmed nearshore and freshwater habitats.
- Conserve and recover orca, salmon and groundfish.

The Action Team partnership is interested in comments from local governments, tribal governments, state and federal partners, interest groups, and interested members of the public. In particular, we want to hear from you about where you think the state should focus its resources and what next steps you think should be taken to protect and restore Puget Sound's marine and freshwater environment.



PRIORITIES

ONLINE AND IN PRINT:

You may review the *2005-2007 Puget Sound Priorities* online at www.psat.wa.gov or call 800-54-SOUND to request a print copy.

February 2004
1-800-54-SOUND
(360) 725-5444

PUGET SOUND ACTION TEAM

PUGET SOUND ACTION TEAM PARTNERS

The **Puget Sound Action Team** is the state's partnership for Puget Sound. The Action Team Partnership defines, coordinates, and puts into action the state's environmental and sustainability agenda for the Sound. Representatives from the following groups serve on the Action Team:

Local Government

- City of Burien, *representing Puget Sound cities*
- Whatcom County, *representing Puget Sound counties*

State Government, directors of the following agencies

- Community, Trade, and Economic Development
- Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation
- Parks and Recreation Commission
- Washington State Conservation Commission
- Washington State Department of Agriculture
- Washington State Department of Ecology
- Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife
- Washington State Department of Health
- Washington State Department of Natural Resources
- Washington State Department of Transportation

Tribal Government

- Tulalip Tribes, *representing Puget Sound Tribes*

Federal Government (Ex-officio)

- NOAA Fisheries
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Chair: Director of Puget Sound Action Team

The **Puget Sound Council** includes representatives from business, agriculture, the shellfish industry, environmental organizations, local and tribal governments and the legislature, and it provides advice and guidance to help steer the Action Team.

How will the Action Team use your comments?

The Action Team partnership agencies will use your comments in planning and budget development during the spring and summer of 2004, and for Washington State's Priorities of Government process that helps the Governor and Legislature decide on the final budget for the two-year period.

The Action Team will publish a draft 2005-2007 work plan priorities document in May of 2004 in response to comments, and a final work plan in fall 2004. The final work plan will include the priorities, objectives, and key agency activities along with actions for specific budgets proposed by Action Team partners.

Questions to guide your comments

The Action Team encourages you to consider the following questions in reviewing and responding to the *Puget Sound Priorities*:

- Are some priorities more important to you than others?
- Do certain of these priorities have higher importance for you in specific geographic areas? If so, which ones and where?
- What are some of the key obstacles to progress for specific priorities and activities?
- Do you know of any specific opportunities that would allow us to make significant progress in a particular priority area?
- Given the state programs and activities currently underway, what are the most important next steps for the next biennium?
- What activities should the state emphasize for a specific priority, for example capacity building, technical assistance, local government funding, enforcement, demonstration projects, education, research?
- What results do we want to see in 2005-2007? What are the best activities to get those results? What are the best measures for those results?
- What actions are needed at the local level to achieve progress on the priorities?

HOW TO SEND US YOUR COMMENTS

Send your comments to **Harriet Beale**, the Action Team's outreach and implementation manager, by **March 18, 2004** by one of the following:

US Mail: Puget Sound Action Team
P.O. Box 40900
Olympia, WA 98504-0900

Fax: (360) 705-5456

E-mail: hbeale@psat.wa.gov

OPEN HOUSE/PUBLIC HEARING:

If you wish to provide comments in person, you may attend an open house and public hearing.

When: **Saturday, March 13, 9 a.m. to Noon**

Where: **Shoreline Conference Center**

Highlander Room • 18560 1st Ave. NE • Shoreline, WA

For directions to the conference center, see

<http://www.shorelinecenter.com/index.php> or call (206) 361-4243.